

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:RBHOWARD

APPROVED BY ARA/WROGERS

ARA/PAN:SMBELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

XMT AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 167086

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 167086 ACTION SAN JOSE INFO PANAMA

DATED 16 JUL 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN MINNEAPOLIS,
JULY 15, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR MAILLIARD FROM BELL

1. ON CHANCE THAT SAN JOSE PRESS DID NOT PICK UP THE
PRESS QUERIES TO THE SECRETARY ON THE PANAMA PROBLEM
YESTERDAY IN MINNEAPOLIS, HE ANSWERED SUBSTANTIALLY AS
FOLLOWS. EXACT TEXT STILL NOT AVAILABLE.

2. I SIGNED ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO A DECLARATION OF
PRINCIPLES WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA IN WHICH WE
COMMITTED OURSELVES TO CONTINUE IN GOOD FAITH THE NEGOTIATIONS
THAT WERE STARTED IN 1964 LOOKING TOWARDS A NEW
ARRANGEMENT FOR THE PANAMA CANAL. THE IMPORTANCE OF
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THESE NEGOTIATIONS RESIDES IN THE FACT THAT PANAMA COULD

BECOME, IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES, A FOCAL POINT FOR A NASTY KIND OF NATIONALISTIC GUERRILLA TYPE OF OPERATION THAT WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE U.S., THAT MIGHT UNIFY ALL OF LATIN AMERICA AGAINST THE U.S. THEREFORE, THE UNITED STATES HAS NEGOTIATED IN GOOD FAITH TO SEE WHAT CAN BE ACHIEVED THAT WOULD GIVE THE UNITED STATES A GUARANTEE WITH RESPECT TO THE DEFENSE OF THE CANAL AND A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF THE OPERATION OF THE CANAL, BUT WHICH WOULD REMOVE SOME OF THE PARTICULARLY GRATING ASPECTS OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN PANAMA. THE U.S. WILL CONTINUE THESE

NEGOTIATIONS. WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHETHER THEY CAN BE CONCLUDED. WE WILL STAY IN THE CLOSEST CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESS ON THIS -- AT EACH STAGE -- AND CONSULT INTIMATELY WITH THE CONGRESS ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT WE ARE CONTINUING THE NEGOTIATIONS. INGERSOLL
UNQUOTE
KISSINGER

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